

Message Text

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53

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00

AID-05 /068 W

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R 141008Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 628

AMEMBASSY DACCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11006

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN HELP TO BUILD BANGLADESH'S FIRST REACTOR

1. ON A RECENT VISIT TO INDIA, JOINT SECRETARY OF THE BANGLADESH DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, DR. SHRAFUDDIN, SAID INDIA WILL HELP BANGLADESH SET UP A 1 MW EXPERIMENTAL REACTOR FOR PRODUCING ISOTOPES. ACCORDING TO DELHI PRESS REPORTS, CONSTRUCTION, EXPECTED TO TAKE THREE YEARS, WILL BE AT SAVAR NEAR DACCA WHERE BANGLADESH IS BUILDING AN ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER. A BANGLADESH DELEGATION WILL FINALIZE THE DESIGN OF THE REACTOR ON A VISIT TO INDIA IN SEPTEMBER. INDIA WILL PROVIDE MOST OF THE COMPONENTS BUT NOT THE FUEL. THE REACTOR REQUIRES ENRICHED URANIUM, WHICH IS NOT PRODUCED BY INDIA, SO WE ASSUME IT IS A LIGHT WATER REACTOR. IN ALL PROBABILITY, IT IS SIMILAR TO PSARA, WHICH IS A 1 MW POOL TYPE REACTOR USING ENRICHED URANIUM, DESIGNED AND BUILT BY INDIANS AT THE BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE, BOMBAY.

2. DR. SHRAFUDDIN SAID BANGLADESH IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR POWER ALTHOUGH IT HAS NEITHER URANIUM NOR THORIUM. HE ADDED THAT BANGLADESH HAS ATOMIC SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THE PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

3. DOES EMBASSY DACCA KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT THIS PROPOSED JOINT

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VENTURE?

SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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